

Message Text

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GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR SHERER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EFIN, CZ, US

SUBJECT: CLAIMS AGREEMENT

1. DURING CALL BY CHARGE ON ZANTOVKSY (HEAD OF SIXTH DEPARTMENT MFA) APRIL 29 TO DISCUSS 30TH VE ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION, ZANTOVSKY BROUGHT UP CLAIMS AGREEMENT SITUATION. (STOJE OF SIXTH DEPARTMENT, WHO HAD WORKED ON DETAILS OF 30TH ANNIVERSARY, WAS ALSO PRESENT AND TAKING NOTES, CONTRARY TO USUAL PRACTICE OF CHARGE AND ZANTOVSKY MEETING ALONE.)

2. ZANTOVSKY REFERRED TO REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON OF SOME POSSIBILITY OF MOVEMENT IN THE SITUATION, AND SAID HE HAD TWO QUESTIONS: FIRST, DID WE HAVE IN MIND TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE BESIDES THE DOCUMENT THAT WE HAD INITIALED JULY 5? SECOND, WHAT WAS THE CONNECTION OF THIS WITH THE TRADE ACT? HE ASKED STATUS OF PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH RUMANIA, AND WENT ON TO POINT OUT THAT IN GOC VIEW PORTIONS OF TRADE ACT WERE DISCRIMINATORY AND UNACCEPTABLE. HE SAID HE HAD SENT INSTRUCTION TO CZECH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON THAT THEY HAD TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION, IN ANY DISCUSSION, THIS CONNECTION OF THE "DISCRIMINATORY" TRADE ACT AND CLAIMS

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AGREEMENT.

3. CHARGE SAID HE WAS INFORMED INFORMALLY OF GENERAL STATUS OF THINGS BY HIS FRIENDS IN DEPARTMENT, AND HE THOUGHT CZECHOSLOVAK EMBASSY WAS SIMILARLY INFORMED; BUT FACT WAS THAT NOTHING OFFICIAL HAD YET TAKEN PLACE. CHARGE REFERRED TO DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES, AND WITH SOME OF CLAIMANTS AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES, AND VOICED HOPE THAT THOSE IN CHARGE IN WASHINGTON MIGHT FIND A WAY TO GET AROUND PRESENT IMPASSE. HOWEVER, WE WERE NOT YET AT STAGE TO TAKE THIS UP GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT. CHARGE ADDED THAT THERE WAS CERTAINLY CONNECTION BETWEEN CLAIMS AGREEMENT AND TRADE ACT, AND BECAUSE OF SECTION 408 (LONG-GRAVEL), WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO SETTLE THE CLAIMS MATTER FINALLY UNTIL SOMETHING WAS DONE ON THE TRADE ACT FRONT. HOWEVER, IT WAS OUR HOPE THAT THIS WOULD NOT PREVENT SOME WORK ON THE CLAIMS AGREEMENT AS A FIRST STEP.

4. ZANTOVSKY SAID CZECHOSLOVAK SIDE WAS WILLING TO EXPLORE ANYTHING, BUT US SIDE HAD TO BEAR IN MIND THAT CZECHS SIMPLY COULD NOT AFFORD A THIRD FAILURE.

5. COMMENT: THIS SOUNDED LIKE THE PREDICTABLE POSITION OF A MINISTRY BUREAUCRAT, WHO CANNOT SPEAK AS FREELY AS THE MAN IN THE FIELD. MOST OF WHAT ZANTOVSKY SAID WAS MERELY REPETITION OF PREVIOUSLY STATED CZECH POSITIONS, PRESUMABLY FOR THE RECORD. MAIN IMPRESSION CHARGE HAD, HOWEVER, WAS THAT DESPITE CONCERN AND CAUTION, GOC WOULD PROBABLY BE WILLING TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE WAYS OUT OF THE IMPASSE INFORMALLY AND WITH RELATIVELY OPEN MIND.
PERRY

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